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DEPT FOR NEA/ARP, ISN/CATR - KESSLER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/19/2017
TAGS: [ETTC](#) [KSTC](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [SA](#) [QA](#) [AE](#)
SUBJECT: SATELLITE COOPERATION AGREEMENT - INFORMAL UAE
VIEWS

REF: STATE 80346

Classified By: Ambassador Michele J. Sison, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (S/NF) DATT met with UAE Air Force Intelligence Chief Colonel Mahash Al-Hameli on July 16 to follow-up on our previous approaches on the draft U.S. - KSA, UAE, and Qatar Satellite Cooperation Agreement (SCA). Col Mahash said he preferred a bilateral agreement with the USG on this subject. The GCC, he argued, is not an effective military entity, but an outlet for politicians to talk. With regard to this agreement, he stated, he did not believe the Saudis would act.

¶2. (S/NF) Col Mahash stated the SCA was with UAE Chief of Staff Lt. General Hamad Mohammed Thani Al-Rumaithy for reply. He told DATT that LTG Al-Rumaithy had asked for his input, which he had provided. He thought a formal response would be coming "soon."

¶3. (S) Since we approached the UAEG (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UAE Military) in June, Raytheon has also met with Col Mahash about the HudHud satellite system and received a similar message about Mahash's preference for a bilateral agreement. We will continue to seek a formal reply on the SCA and advocate on behalf of the Raytheon-led U.S. consortium.

¶4. (C) Bio Note: Colonel Mahash is departing the UAE in August for vacation in Switzerland followed by attendance at the NATO staff college in Rome. The college is to fulfill requirements for promotion to Brigadier. DATT expects Mahash's promotion to Brigadier in December. As a Brigadier, Mahash will play an important and more prominent role in the UAE AF & AD.
SISON